

**SECRET**

**CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY**

21 October 1957

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

PP/ICD

SUBJECT

X-3894  
: Transmittal of Unclassified Statement  
on Soviet Urban Housing

25X1A

Attached is a statement on Soviet urban housing as discussed

25X9

between you and [REDACTED] on Friday, 18 October 1957. The statement  
is unclassified [REDACTED] X9

FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, RESEARCH AND REPORTS

25X1A

[REDACTED]  
Acting Chief, Control Staff  
Office of Research and Reports

Attachment

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9 The availability of urban housing in the USSR today, approximately 1/25 dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants is the lowest of any major industrial nation in the world. <sup>1</sup> Per capita dwelling space is about the same as it was at the time of the Czarist Revolution. It is far lower than in Western Europe; for example, France which is by no means the housing leader, has about 300 dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants. <sup>2</sup> As part of the Khrushchev program, very modest improvement in living space has been promised to the people by 1960, but this will add only about enough space per capita for an extra armchair. *3 Pravda 2 August*

At the same time, vast sums of money are being expended on military activities, grossly out of proportion to U. S. defense outlays. The launching of "sputnik" and the claimed perfection of the intercontinental ballistic guided missile once again call attention to the overwhelming diversion of Soviet resources away from the living standards to military purposes. From what we have seen of this effort, it must represent an expenditure of from \$35 to \$40 billions over the plan period, which if diverted to urban housing would raise USSR urban dwelling standards by 1960 to that of France today.

*1) European Housing Built Situation*

*UN Geneva Jan 56 E/ECE 221 p 46*

*2) Ibid*

*3) Pravda 2 August*

*Did not send - but was suggested vice 2nd sentence - Per capita dwelling space is better than it was at the end of WWII or 1945. This could be backed up by using the 1956 Handbook Narodnoe Khozaystvo SSSR.*